

LACDMH WALKS FOR NAMI

By Karen Zarsadiaz, Public Information Officer II



Teams representing the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) woke up bright and early on Saturday, October 6, 2012, to participate in the National Alliance on Mental Illness's (NAMI) annual 5K NAMIWalks event in Santa Monica at the Third Street Promenade. LACDMH was a presenting sponsor in this year's walk.



"This year's NAMIWalks event has been fantastic! I think we've raised awareness, broadened our base and have been very inclusive – and that's why this year's walk is so big," said NAMI walk manager Wayne Baldaro. "I'm very excited and I know next year will be bigger and better."



According to Baldaro, nearly 3,000 people joined the tenth annual NAMI event aimed at ending stigma and supporting NAMI programs in Los Angeles County. The 5K fundraiser, “NAMIWalks: Changing Minds One Step at a Time”, helps support programs of education, research and advocacy for those who suffer from all types of mental illness, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and severe anxiety disorders.



Last year, NAMIWalks were held in 80 cities all over the country. Since NAMIWalks began in 2003, there have been more than 450 NAMIWalks events with 500,000 walkers/supporters who’ve raised more than \$45 million.



Besides LACDMH, numerous other sponsors participated, including Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Genentech, Northrop Grumman, Downtown Santa Monica, Landmark Medical Center, Sunovion and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA.

